第18話

Queen's Artist ●●●

FUTABASTA
RUKA NARU
EPISODE 1
SETOUCHI HARUKA
IT'S A HEARTWARMING SLICE-OF-LIFE SERIES ABOUT A GIRL
WHO MOVES FROM THE CITY TO AN ISLAND.
THIS ANIME, "HARUKA NARU," WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RELEASE A MANGA CONCURRENTLY WITH THE BROADCAST
BUT OUR ORIGINAL ARTIST TSUYUDAKU-SENSEI SUFFERED A BONE FRACTURE.
EH?
I KNOW THIS IS SHORT NOTICE, BUT COULD YOU DO IT?
HMM
JANUARY...
TSUYUDAKU-SENSEI? THE ROCK STAR OF THE LOLI MANGA SCENE?!
A MANGA ADAPTATION OF AN ANIME HAS ITS GOOD AND BAD POINTS
THE PROJECT "IS" IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO DRAW A POPULAR MANGAKA
BUT...
HARUKA NARU EPISODE 1

NO ONE IS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE!
THESE THINGS USUALLY PAY PEANUTS PER PAGE, AND THEY HAVE SHORT DEADLINES!
BUT THE ARTIST HAS TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO MATCH WHAT THE ANIME PRODUCERS WANT
AND IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE WHO CAN FILL THOSE SHOES
BUT IF THE ANIME IS A HIT, THE BOOK WILL SELL TOO!
OCT
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THE TIMEFRAME...
I KNOW IT WILL BE A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE,
BUT CAN YOU DO IT?
!?
HOMOKO-SAN...

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!
LET'S DO THIS!
BUT THAT WAS BACK WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH ALL-NIGHTERS.
THE DEAD-LINE IS DE-CEM-BER!
THAT'S 100 PAGES IN 70 DAYS!
IT'LL BE FINE!
I ONCE DREW 50 PAGES A MONTH BECAUSE OF A ONE-SHOT ON TOP OF A SERIES.
CAN YOU REALLY HANDLE IT?
NOT TO MENTION YOU ARE NOW A TEACHER.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY HELP FROM ME.

HAWW, GOOD GOD.
AND ALL BECAUSE THE EDITOR IS A HOTTIE.
I WAS HAPPY
THAT SOMEONE SAID THEY NEEDED ME.
IT AIN'T THAT!
NONE OF OUR EDITORS WANTS TO WORK WITH YOU
STUPID TEMP.
THAT'S DUMB.

SPEAKING OF THOSE WHO AREN'T NEEDED...
WHIST LE
WELL?
IT'S HOPE-LESS.
HE WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE A ZOMBIE APOCA-LYPSE.
WHO'D THINK MIYAJI WOULD ACCEPT THAT ASSIGN-MENT.
WHAT ABOUT HIS TEACHING JOB?
...THAT'S IT.
?

!?
I'M HERE TO REPORT THAT MIYAJIMA-SENSEI IS DOING A SIDE JOB.
SHOULD A PUBLIC SERVANT BE ENGAGED IN THAT PURSUIT?
IS THAT SO? THANKS FOR TELLING US.
CLICK
MR. VICE PRINCI-PAL?
AS THEY SAY, INDOLENCE IS THE SEPULCHRE OF VIRTUE.
EHH?
IT'S JUST SOME COMPLAINER.
THAT'S A CLASSICS TEACHER FOR YOU.
WHAT THE DEVIL?!
YOU MORON!
HE'S JUST A TEMP ANYWAY.

☆ PEOPLE WITH TIME ON THEIR HANDS DO ALL SORTS OF STUPID THINGS

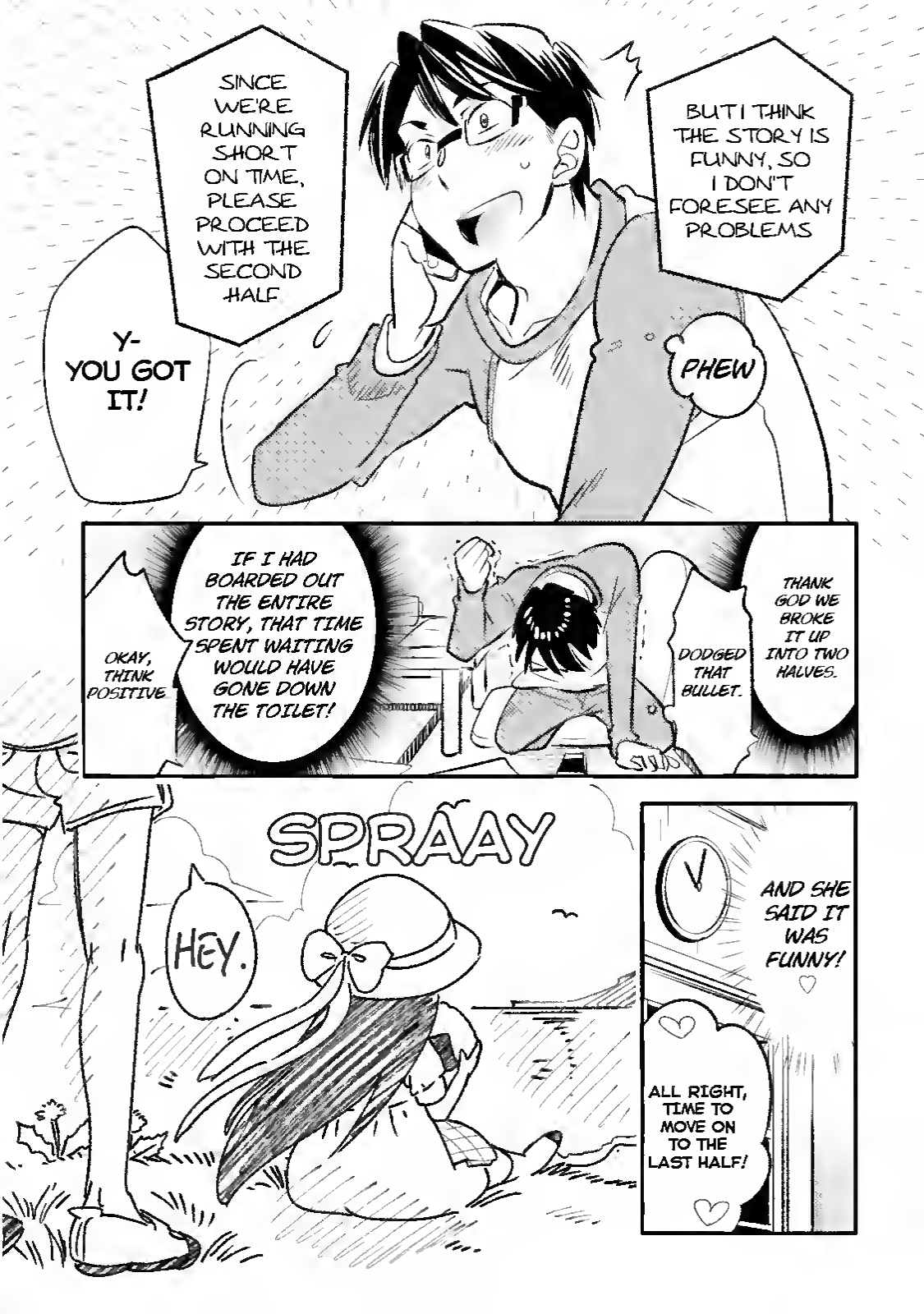
HM
THE MAIN CHARACTER IS SETOUCHI HARUKA, A THIRD-GRADE GIRL.
YAAAY!!
PASS AROUND THOSE PRINT-OUTS.
GO HOME ONCE YOU'RE DONE!
SHE MOVES TO HER FATHER'S HOMETOWN ON AN ISLAND AFTER HER MOTHER DIES.
SCHOOL - EXTERIOR
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW SIDE CHARACTERS AND THE BACKGROUNDS ARE MOUNTAINS AND THE OCEAN
THE CHARACTER DESIGNS ARE SIMPLE ENOUGH
KOJIMA MINAMI
MEANING ...
I CAN DRAW 50 PAGES PER MONTH EVEN WHILE WORKING!
I DON'T HAVE TO EXPEND MUCH TIME ON THE ART.

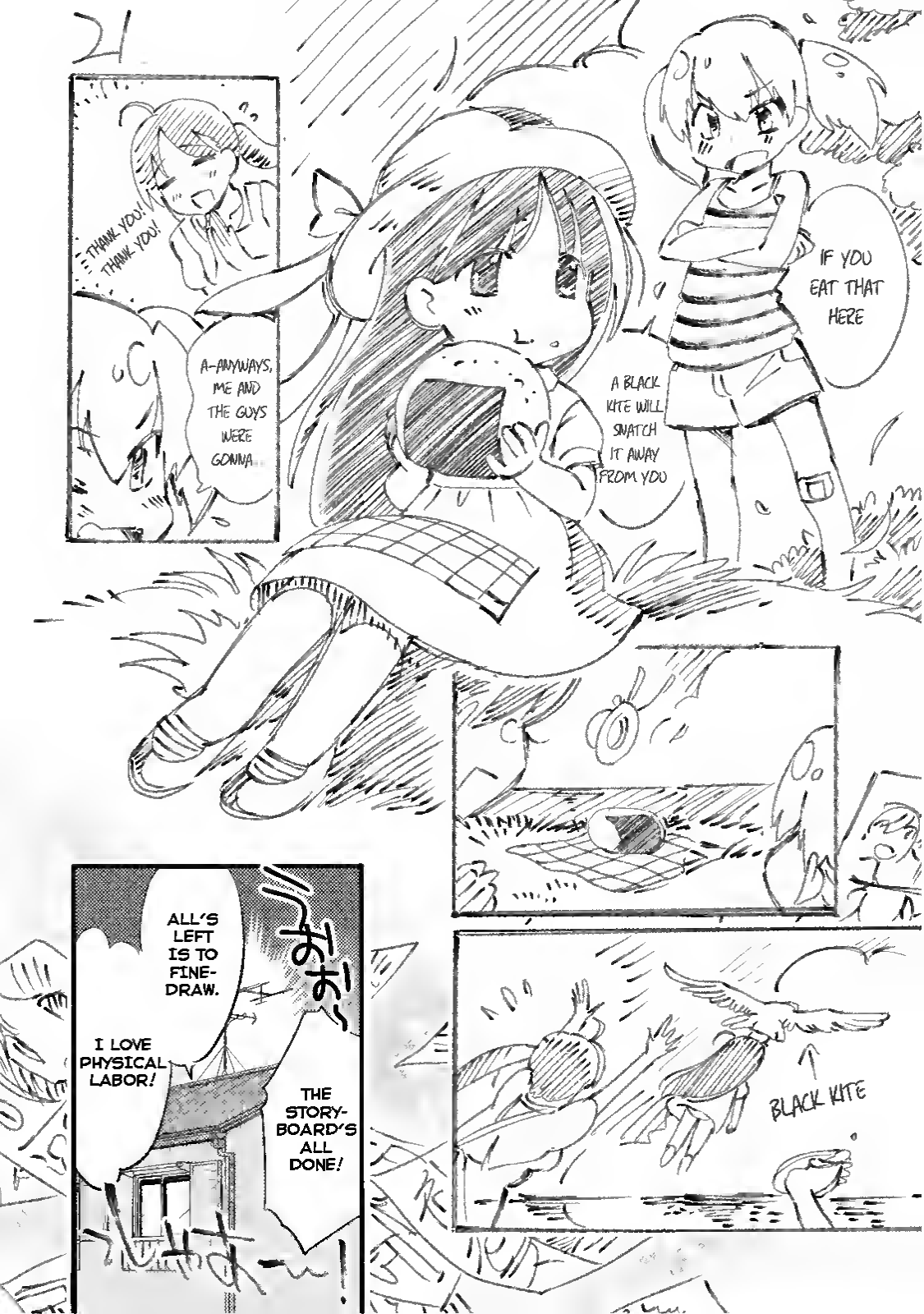
SKY
KIDS, THIS IS HARUKA-CHAN. LET'S MAKE HER FEEL WELCOME!
O——KAY
...
SINCE SHE JUST LOST HER MOTHER
I DON'T BLAME HER.
EHH?
MINAMI
PLEASE SHOW HER THE ROPES.
WHY DO *I* HAVE TO BE HER BABYSITTER?
STARE

WHA..?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THREE YEARS HER SENIOR!
MINAMI!
AH
AH! NO, IT'S FINE!
MINAMI, SIT DOWN!
EHHH?!
PLEASE FORGIVE MY DAUGHTER!
I'M SORRY!
EH?!

HEY, FUJIMAKI!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN THE CLUBROOM LATELY.
YOUR ART SKILLS WILL SUFFER IF YOU KEEP SKIPPING!
HELL YEAH!
I BOARDED 50 PAGES IN ONE WEEK!
THIS IS GONNA BE A CAKE-WALK!
HAH HAH
GOD
HE'S SO INSEN-SITIVE!
.....

HOMOKO-SAN SHOULDN'T BE ONE OF THOSE DAMN EDITORS WHO LEAVES A STORYBOARD UNTOUCHED
BUT I'M BURNING DRAWING TIME AT THIS RATE!
STILL NO RESPONSE...
HOWEVER ...
FUTABASHA KUSADA TOMOKO
HOMOKO-SAN HOW'S THE STORYBOARD ... ♡
PLEASE FORGIVE US
THEY'RE JUGGLING SEVERAL ANIME AT ONCE, SO THEY'RE TOO BUSY WITH VOICE RECORDINGS.
WE STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN A REPLY FROM THE PRODUCERS.
WHA?!

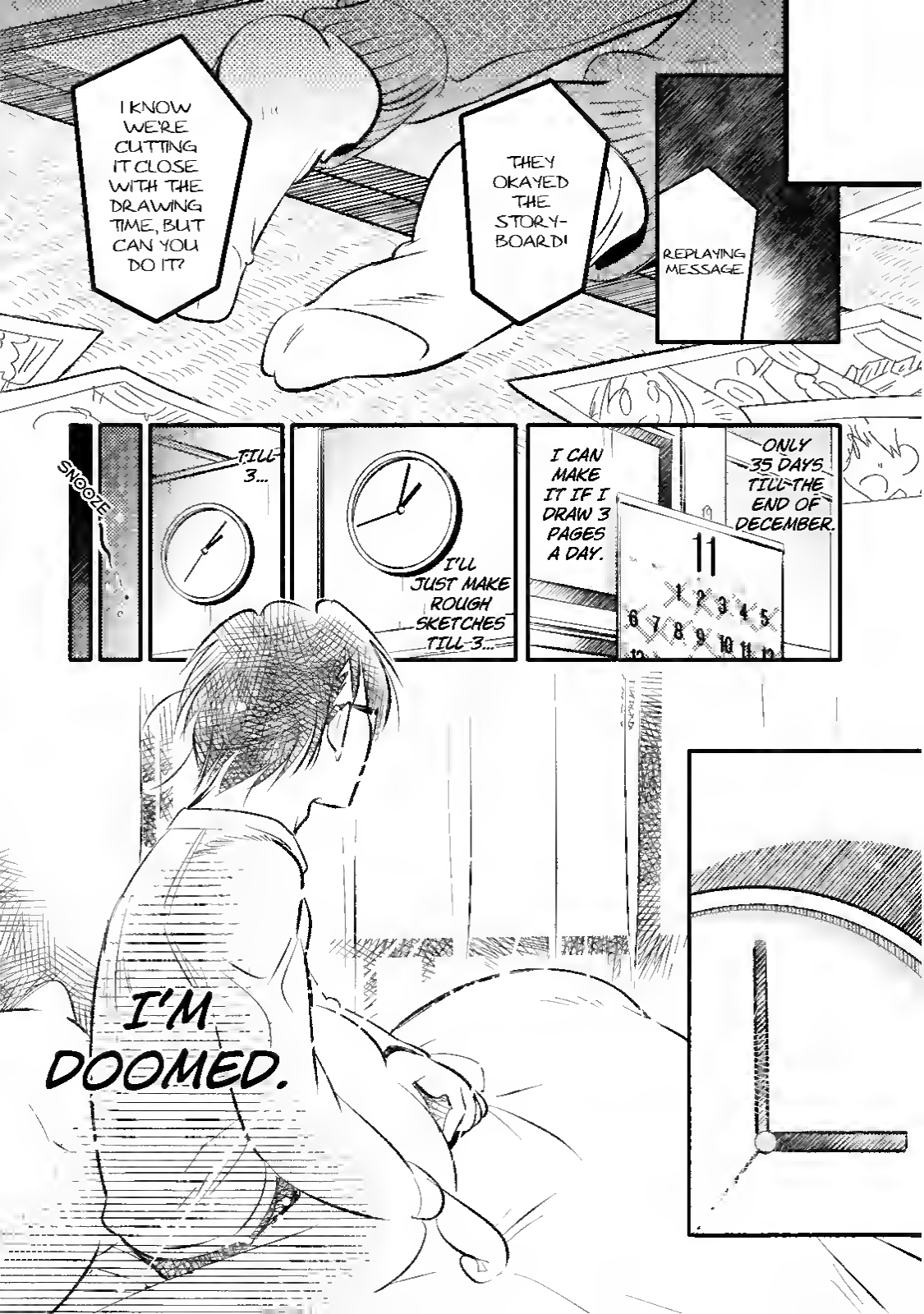

SINCE WE'RE RUNNING SHORT ON TIME, PLEASE PROCEED WITH THE SECOND HALF
BUT I THINK THE STORY IS FUNNY, SO I DON'T FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS
Y- YOU GOT IT!
PHEW
OKAY, THINK POSITIVE
IF I HAD BOARDED OUT THE ENTIRE STORY, THAT TIME SPENT WAITING WOULD HAVE GONE DOWN THE TOILET!
DODGED THAT BULLET.
THANK GOD WE BROKE IT UP INTO TWO HALVES.
SPRAAY
HEY.
AND SHE SAID IT WAS FUNNY!
ALL RIGHT, TIME TO MOVE ON TO THE LAST HALF!


THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
A-ANYWAYS, ME AND THE GUYS WERE GONNA...
IF YOU EAT THAT HERE
A BLACK KITE WILL SNATCH IT AWAY FROM YOU
BLACK KITE
ALL'S LEFT IS TO FINE-DRAW.
I LOVE PHYSICAL LABOR!
THE STORY-BOARD'S ALL DONE!

WHAT?
BUT THE ONLY BOY WORTH MENTIONING IS THAT SATOU-KUN.
THEY WANT US TO GIVE A MORE PROMINENT ROLE TO A MALE CHARACTER AND PLAY UP THE BOY-MEETS-GIRL ASPECT
プルルルル♪
HOMOKO-SAN, JUST IN TIME!
OH, THE PRODU-CERS CALLED BACK?
"SHITBIRD PRODU-CERS"?
BUT I THOUGHT THEY SAID I WAS FREE TO COME UP WITH WHATEVER STORY I WANT.
I KNOW!
BUT THOSE SHITBIRD PRODUCERS INSISTED UPON IT!
SO HERE'S AN IDEA I CAME UP WITH
BUT THEY REALLY WANT
TO GIVE THE ANIME A YURI THEME AND HAVE THE MANGA BE HETERO IN ORDER TO CATER TO BOTH TASTES
HAAAAH?

HOMOKO-SAN IS A GENIUS!
I SEE, IF I DO THAT...
CHANGE HER TO SATOU-KUN.
HARUKA!
HARUKA
!
DARN IT, I WAS WORRIED SICK!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
IT'S FINE
HOW ABOUT WE REPLACE MINAMI-CHAN WITH SATOU-KUN IN EPISODES FEATURING THAT GIRL STARTING WITH PAGE 21
AND THE REST WON'T NEED ANY TWEAKING
PHEW
OF COURSE
YES, THANKS A LOT.
YOU GOT IT, IT'LL GET DONE TONIGHT.
HOLD ON!
IF WE REJIGGER THE FIRST HALF
IT'LL INTRODUCE ALL SORTS OF INCONSISTENCIES IN THE SECOND HALF!

GO TO HELL.
SCREW YOU.
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?!
SELF STUDY!
RIGHT, FUJI-MAKI?
MIYAJI'S OFF TODAY?
NO, I SAW HIM THIS MORNING.
AND I TOLD HIM I WOULDN'T HELP OUT
SIGH
MATH!
THIS IS JUST FOR TODAY.
SERIOUSLY?!


I KNOW WE'RE CUTTING IT CLOSE WITH THE DRAWING TIME, BUT CAN YOU DO IT?
THEY OKAYED THE STORY-BOARD!
REPLAYING MESSAGE
SNOOZE
TILL 3...
I'LL JUST MAKE ROUGH SKETCHES TILL 3...
I CAN MAKE IT IF I DRAW 3 PAGES A DAY.
ONLY 35 DAYS TILL THE END OF DECEMBER.
I'M DOOMED.

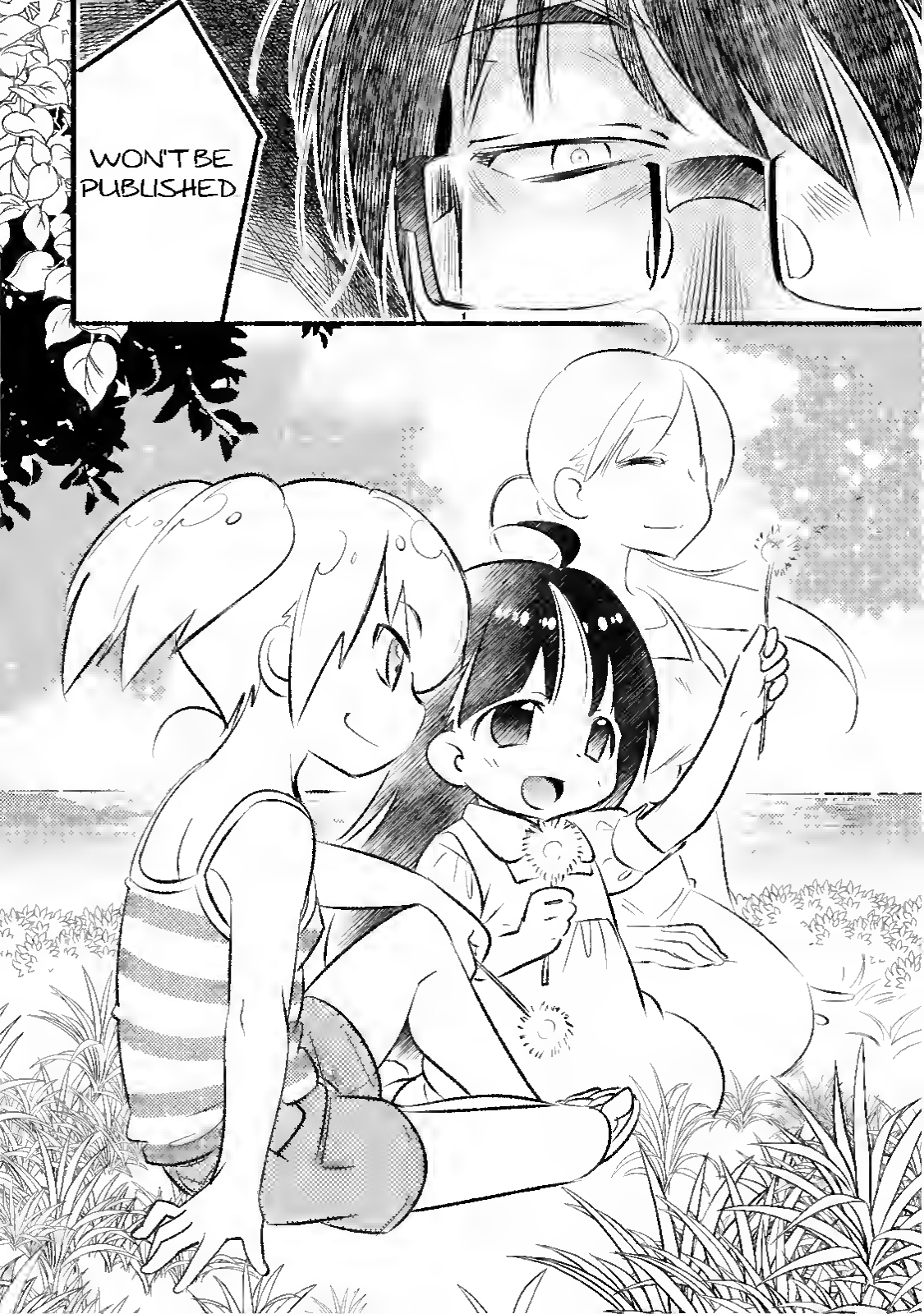
I'VE ROYALLY SCREWED UP!
YUKIMORI'S CLASS WAS TOTALLY EASY TO UNDERSTAND!
WE DON'T EVEN NEED MIYAJI ANYMORE.
INSTEAD OF PROVIDING BACKUP, IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE RENDERED HIM COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY!
WHY?
HAH HAH
YEAH, WELL...
SCREW THIS! I'M JUST GOING TO STAY IN THE CLUBROOM!
AND I'M NOT COMING OUT TILL I FINISHED THE DRAFT!
MANGA CIRCLE

WHAT'S THAT?
MIYAJI?
I'VE BEEN INKING SO MUCH MY HAND GAVE OUT, SO I IMPROVISED.
AH, THIS?
HAH HAH ... HAH HAH ...
LET ME GO!
HE CAN ROT IN HELL!
THIS IS CRITICAL!
I'M NOT KIDDING!

YUKI-MORI-CHAN!
I'VE BROUGHT FUJIMAKI!
OHH!
!
YOU'RE LATE!

SINCE THEY MIGHT "BRING TO MIND CHILD ABUSE."
HEH
THEY SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE I STARTED DRAWING
HEH
NOW THEY WANT US TO WHITE OUT THE BANDAGES OFF THE OLDER GIRL
AAND THAT'S THE 51ST PAGE.
I'M NOW PAST THE HALFWAY POINT
HEH
HEH
FUTABASHA KUSADA TOMOKO
CHILL
THEY'VE BROKEN HIM!
HELLO? ♪
THIS IS WHERE HE'S BEEN SLEEPING?
ANY MORE CHANGES WILL KILL MEEE ♪
AH, MIYAJIMA-SAN
I'M AFRAID
LISTEN
THIS IS NOT A CHANGE.

HAS BEEN CAN-CELLED
THE ANIME.
CAN'T WE JUST DO THE MANGA ALONE?
BUT...
NO
THE ENTIRE PROJECT HAS BEEN CANCELLED, MEANING THE MANGA
WHY?
THE PRO-DUCTION STUDIO WENT UNDER
SO THE ANIME HAS BEEN SHELVED


WON'T BE
PUBLISHED

CREDITS

RAW/TRANSLATOR/QC: ITAINTEAZY
EDITOR: ARTSINIS

ARTSINIS:

READ ONE, GET TWO STORIES.
THIS CHAPTER WAS INTERESTING.
FOR EXAMPLE THE MANGA/ANIME.
WE HAVE THE TRAGIC DEATH OF A BELOVED PERSON, WHO COMES BACK AS A GHOST,
THE SHY AND TIMID CHILD THAT DOES NOT TALK AND HER FRIEND (?),
WHO'S ALL LIKE "I CAN SEE DEAD PEOPLE".
SoL, MYSTERY, COMEDY, ROMANCE,
CUTE LO- WAAAH, SCRATCH THAT!
ANYWAY I LIKED THIS CHAPTER A LOT.
AND THAT'S INTERESTING BECAUSE CLEANING ALL THE TEXT OUTSIDE OF THE BUBBLES WAS PURE HELL. ;)

NOW IF YOU LOOK BEHIND ALL THE BLA-BLA YOU CAN SEE MORE THINGS THEN YOU'RE ABLE TO SPOT AT FIRST GLANCE.
MAINLY A DEEPER MEANING HIDDEN IN THIS CHAPTER.

ITAINTEAZY:

OKAY, SO APPARENTLY IN THE ABOVE IMAGE, I'M THE BRAINY, SADISTIC, SEMIANOREXIC LESBIAN PREDATOR (WHICH IS FINE, SINCE I'M A KURO FAN), WHILE ARTSINIS IS THE GRUNT ARTIST WHOM I TAKE PLEASURE IN BEATING LIKE A RENTED MULE.

AND APPARENTLY "HARUKA NARU" IS "NON NON BIYORI" IF KUUDERE RENGE-CHON IS MADE INTO THE MC (MIYAUCHI --> SETOUCHI, GEDDIT?). I COULDN'T GET INTO NNB BECAUSE OF THAT BORING OPPAI LOLI, BUT I WOULD DEFINITELY FOLLOW HARUKA NARU, ESPECIALLY IF THEY LEAVE THOSE MOE YOUTHFUL FETISH BANDAGES ON MINAMI (IMAGINE THE HENTAI DOUJINS IT WOULD INSPIRE, AMIRITE?).

AHEM. ANYHOO, THIS CHAPTER'S LIBTURD SCRIPTWRITING TL NOTE IS FOR PAGE 14. WHAT MINAMI LITERALLY SAYS IS "IF YOU EAT IN THAT PLACE, A BLACK KITE WILL TAKE AWAY." THERE'S NO SUBJECT NOUN IN THE SECOND HALF SINCE THE JAPANESESES HATE CLARITY, BUT NORMALLY WE'D UNDERSTAND THAT AS "TAKE AWAY THE FOOD." THEN THE WINGED RAPTOR FLIPS THE SCRIPT BY "TAKING AWAY" HARUKA INSTEAD, MAKING FOR A HIGH-LARIOUS JAPANESIAN JOKE.